

In the following years, Congress and the states added to the Reconstruction Era Civil Rights Amendments, with the 14th Amendment in 1868, providing for equal protection and due process, and the 15th Amendment in 1870, guaranteeing the right to vote regardless of race.

These constitutional amendments were absolutely critical in our pursuit of a more perfect union where all men, and women, are created equal.

In the first four-score-and-9 years of our Republic, slavery was allowed and, indeed, enshrined in our Constitution.

While that changed with the 13th Amendment, over the last 155 years, we have still had to struggle for true equality.

The 13th Amendment may have ended slavery, but it did not stop the Black Codes or Jim Crow.

The 14th Amendment promised equal protection, but it didn't prevent 100 years of segregation.

The 15th Amendment says that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged, but it hasn't kept tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of people of color from being disenfranchised at the hands of voter suppression tactics.

That is why I think it is so important that we do things like this—come together to talk about our history and the steps we need to take to complete the work.

Despite the progress over the years, we have not yet solved the problem of systemic racism.

We have work yet to do to make sure that a child's future isn't determined by her zip code; to overcome disparities in our health care system that have been exacerbated by a global pandemic; to prevent innocent Black men from being killed in the street.

As we approach another milestone—the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the Congressional Black Caucus—I am proud to join with my colleagues in the CBC to do that hard work, and to finally ratify the 13th Amendment, not just in law, but in truth.

#### RECOGNIZING 2020 TRUMAN SCHOLAR VALERIE DOZE

#### HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Valerie Doze, a student at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph on receiving the Truman Scholarship.

The Truman Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 to honor President Harry S. Truman's legacy of extraordinary public service. The Truman Scholarship serves as a living monument to that legacy.

Each year, a diverse group of scholars receive \$30,000 to pursue graduate studies and are granted priority placement at our nation's top universities, as well as internships within the federal government.

Valerie is one of 62 in the 2020 class of Truman Scholars, having distinguished herself in a pool of nearly 800 candidates nominated by 316 colleges and universities across the country. Valerie will serve as the North Dakota Truman Scholar.

Congratulations to Valerie on this incredible honor, and we look forward to seeing all that she accomplishes.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WINNER OF THE 2020 CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE'S FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, JAMIE O'KEEFE

#### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize high school junior Jamie O'Keefe as the winner of the 2020 Congressional App Challenge in New Hampshire's First Congressional District.

Using JavaScript and C Sharp, Jamie created "Augmentia," a physics-based augmented reality app where users can test the structural and design viability of a variety of objects: anything from a piece of furniture to a 3-D model of a skull. "Augmentia" was selected for its practicality, creativity, and versatility across all its functions.

Jamie is a student at Exeter High School in Exeter, New Hampshire and has been coding since he was in the fifth grade. Upon graduating high school, he intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer science and has expressed particular interest in artificial intelligence and machine learning. My office is proud to support continued investments in STEM education so that all Granite Staters can have the opportunity to explore STEM and computer science.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I congratulate Jamie on his terrific achievement. I am proud to showcase his work as a phenomenal product of STEM education in our district and wish him all my best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JAMES RUSSELL CAPPS

#### HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of James Russell Capps.

Russell Capps was born in Raleigh, North Carolina on February 26, 1931. He attended Murphy Elementary School and Hugh Morson High School in the Oakwood neighborhood of Raleigh. He graduated from the Radio/Television Institute of Chicago and then from Wake Forest University in 1956 with a degree in Sociology.

During the 1970s, Russell worked a position in radio and later television with WRAL News in Raleigh. Capps then went on to the Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary for three years and served as a volunteer pastor at a Baptist church.

Madam Speaker, in the 1960s he attended the Institute of Government in Chapel Hill, North Carolina for a number of studies in local government administration and fire service. In 1968, he served as the first Wake County Planning Director and later as the first director of Wake County Emergency Management and founded the Wake County Emergency Medical Services.

Russell was then elected to the North Carolina State House of Representatives in 1994 and he served 6 terms in that body.

For 22 years, Russell also served as President of the Tax Payers Association. He was a member of the Christian Action League of North Carolina for 40 years and he spent eighteen years as a department head in Wake County Government. Russell was also Fire Marshall of Wake County for seventeen years. He was a planner in the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety. He served as Wake County's first Planning Director who helped develop and prepare the original Wake County Comprehensive Development Plan.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, Russell Capps passed away this year on October 6, 2020. He was 89 years old. He will be missed by his friends, neighbors, family, and the entire community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARY COLLINS

#### HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 8, 2020*

Mr. SUOZZI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mary Collins who, after 22 years is retiring as chair of the Huntington Town Democratic Committee. Over the years, I have been fortunate to know Mary both as a friend and an ally and remember the gracious welcome she gave me when I opened my flagship Congressional office in the Village of Huntington. As a staff person to former members of Congress Gary Ackerman and Steve Israel, Mary spent many years advocating for the constituents of New York's Third Congressional District. She is admired by many and I join with them in wishing her the best as she moves on to the next chapter in her life.

I include in the RECORD the following tribute to Mary that was prepared by the Huntington Town Democratic Committee:

On the Occasion of the Retirement of Mary Collins as the Chairwoman of the Huntington Town Democratic Committee, celebrating her 22nd anniversary as our beloved chair, we honor Mary for her excellence and service to the Huntington Community. We hereby recognize and acknowledge her tenure in office by sharing some of her biography and contributions.

Mary has been a resident of the Town of Huntington since 1950. She moved here from East Hampton as a child at the age of 8 when her Father became the caretaker of the Marshall Field Estate (now Caumsett State Park) where he was in charge of the stable of horses.

Her family ties to East Hampton connected her to Eleanor's Legacy by her relationship with Judith Hope who was the East Hampton Town Supervisor. Judith Started Eleanor's Legacy. Mary brought Eleanor's legacy to Huntington by appointing Sherry Pavone as head of the Woman's Initiative. HTDC has supported Eleanor's Legacy's goal of supporting women candidates throughout NY.

Mary was a teacher by profession. She spent her career wholly within Syosset High School District. Mary's area of expertise in teaching was Global studies. However, she became very interested in local politics on Long Island after observing her mother's long service as a Board of Elections volunteer, registering voters and working through election times as far back as the 1950's.

Huntington at that time was a quasi-rural area with much farmland.

Many Huntingtonians wanted to keep the character and nature of Huntington as it had